GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:417
ANSWERED ON:17.11.2016
Records of Members
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

a) whether the details of participation of members of different castes in panchayats is available with the Union Government;
b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
c) whether there have been any reported instances of ostracization or discrimination against persons based on their caste in village Panchayats, if so, the details thereof; and
d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make Panchayats more inclusive?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b): Details of the actual participation of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Castes (OBCs) or members of different castes in States are not maintained by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Article 243D of the Constitution mandates that seats shall be reserved for the SCs and STs in every Panchayat and the number of seats so reserved shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that Panchayat as the population of the SCs or of the STs in that Panchayat area bears to the total population of that area and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat. Also offices of chairpersons in the Panchayats shall be reserved for SCs and STs in proportion to their respective population to the total population of the State. Article 243D (6) provides for discretionary provision for State Governments to legislate for reservation of seats and offices in the Panchayats in favour of backward class of citizens. The mandatory provision for reservation of seats and offices in Panchayats for SCs and STs has been fulfilled by all the States and UTs under Part IX of the Constitution.

(c): Details about alleged instances of ostracization or discrimination in States against SCs, STs and OBCs are not maintained centrally by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Respective State Government authorities are competent to take appropriate action in such cases.

(d): Constitutional provisions in Article 243D are considered steps towards ensuring participation of SCs, STs and OBCs in the functioning of Panchayats and inclusive involvement of disadvantaged sections of the society.

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